through short term courses as well as through formal programmes at the Diploma & M. Tech. level. The number of students trained by these CEDTs is about 340 (as on 31st March, 1991).

Typewriting Test by Subordinate Selection Centre at New Delhi

6767. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the candidates whose typewriters become unserviceable during the course of the typewriting test conducted by the Subordinate Selection Centre at New Delhi were used to be given chance to retake the test in the next batch or so;

(b) if so, the reasons for the discontinuance of this practice now; and

(c) the steps taken to continue the old practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. This facility was allowed from 1984 onwards for candidates appearing in the typewriting test of the Clerk Grade Examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission.

(b) and (c). This practice was discontinued from 1988 onwards due to the increase in the number of candidates taking the typewriting test and the inherent difficulties in establishing the genuineness of the claims of the candidates that their typewriters went out of order during the test. There is no proposal to resume the practice.

Indian Rare Earth Units in Kerala

6768. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the expansion schemes envisaged for the Indian Rare Earth units in Kerala;

(b) the foreign exchange earned and profit made by the IRE units in Kerala during each of the last three years; and

(c) the safety measures taken in these units against radiation hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Indian Rare Earths Limited have plans to set up a facility at their Rare Earths Division at Alwaye to separate Neodymium, Praseodymium and Lanthanum from the Didymium fraction of the Rare Earths. Feasibility of exploiting the mineral deposit in the coastal belt of Kayamkulam in the Neendakara-Kayamkulam is being examined. Further, setting up of a Joint Venture between Indian Rare Earths Limited and Government of Kerala is also being examined to exploit the heavy minerals in the Neendakara-Indo-Norwegian foundation (Block 1 for which mining lease is held by Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited).

(b) Foreign Exchange & Profit earnings of Indian Rare Earths Limited's units in Kerala for the years 1988—89 to 1990—91 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	*Rare Earths Plant at Alwaye*		*Chavara plant*	
	F.E.	*Profit*	*F.E.*	*Profit*
1988—89	7.8	3.0	8.9	11.0
1989—90	2.6	(-) 0.4	16.7	16.0
1990—91 (Provisional)	4.2	(-) 0.3	16.2	20.0